

Wildridings Primary School Annual Report from The Governing Body for 2015-2016

As the academic year comes to an end it is timely to review the past year's activities at school and the work of the governing body and to share that information with all who have a vested interest in the school and its wellbeing.

Wildridings Primary School with two classes per Year and a Nursery and extensive grounds is a big school and amongst the largest in the Borough. This brings challenges of meeting the needs of the children and managing the budget and improving year on year whilst keeping up to date with our statutory obligations.

The full governing body meets twice per term and this school is fortunate to have governors from all walks of life with skills, experience and time. The Minutes from the FGB are always on display in Reception. Details about governors are available on the school website. Several new governors have joined this year and all benefit from training available from the Local Authority.

The work of the governing body is done mostly in committee, and brief details of the purpose of these committees and their work over the year is set out below.

Teaching and Learning Committee

Over the past year the Teaching & Learning Committee have continued to rigorously monitor the progress and attainment of all pupils. At our twice termly meetings we look in depth at the progress and attainment of all groups of children including but not exclusively:

- Boys;
- Girls;
- pupil premium; and
- English as an Additional Language ("EAL").

We also closely monitor all the interventions that are put in place for the accelerated progress that is important to help all pupils achieve their Age Related Expectations ("ARE"). Close monitoring helps us ensure that all pupils are making progress and that the school's money is being spent where it is needed most.

We also have a regular overview of the curriculum with reports from subject leaders and also all governors have responsibility of a curriculum subject and have regular meetings with the subject leaders.

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee monitors all issues relating to the welfare and well-being of pupils in the school, by planning for and monitoring policies and processes which are put in place to promote the social, emotional and mental health and well-being of pupils. This includes:

- Monitoring the school procedures for safeguarding and child protection, including anonymous monitoring of welfare checks and reports to Children's social care and their outcomes;
- Monitoring bullying, racism and other related incidents;
- Updating policies related to pastoral care, pupil welfare, behaviour and discipline;
- Monitoring staff training for safe guarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Monitoring attendance and punctuality of key groups across the school;
- Monitoring and promoting inclusion and access for all staff and pupils;
- Setting out in writing the principles on which the head teacher should base the behaviour policy: the Governor's Written Principles; and
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the school's behaviour policy and considering an annual report on behaviour from the Headteacher.

Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee

The Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee, as its name might suggest, has 3 key responsibilities delegated to it:

- Finance: looking after the delegated budget and this underpins everything the school does. Value for money, sustainability and accountability are the watchwords here.
- Personnel: looking after pay, performance and staffing levels for teaching and support staff. This is very much a strategic role with day to day control belonging to the head teacher and the senior leadership team. However, the Committee was heavily involved with the recruitment of a new head teacher, and we look forward to Mr Cope taking over the reins of the school in September.
- Premises: looking after the premises and that involves ensuring the school remains a safe place and prioritising the improvements around the school and grounds whilst staying within budget. This year the toilet area of the early years part of the school have been completely refurbished, IT equipment has continued to be replaced to ensure it continues to meet the needs of teachers, staff and children and key stage 2 children benefited from new tables and chairs.

We continue to be extremely grateful to the efforts of the Friends of Wildridings, whose hard work this year has allowed a new climbing frame to be installed in the key stage 1 playground, replacing the previous climbing frame which had become rotten and unsafe for the children.

During the year, the governor's took the very difficult decision to close the school to children on 2 days when the school was being used as a polling station for elections. The welfare of the children is our number one priority, and we cannot open the school on polling days if there is any potential risk to the children. We appreciate the significant disruption this can cause for both parents and children, and have expressed our dissatisfaction at the current arrangements to local authority. Unfortunately, the local authority has the legal right to use any publicly funded building for polling purposes, and they do not consider there to be any other suitable building in the Wildridings area.

Governors' meetings usually take place at the end of the school day when the children and majority of school staff are not there. However, governors are encouraged to come into school to see first-hand school assemblies, special events and parents' evenings. Governors' day is an annual event and an opportunity for on-site training, classroom visits and a school dinner with the children. We welcome feedback from parents and children on what's important to you about the school and happy to answer your questions about the work of the governing body. Please direct your questions to the chair of governors in writing via the office in reception.

"It's all about the children".